



CDHH e-Newsletter

Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

November, 2008

Volume 2, Number 3

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The entry way into our site

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Press releases, articles, public documents, and information about legislation

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The Perfect Storm

Our nation is in the midst of a perfect storm- with declining economy, unemployment rate, record-breaking foreclosures and much more. The phrase "Perfect Storm" comes from the 1997 book *The Perfect Storm* which refers to simultaneous occurrence of weather fronts (forces) which, taken individually, would be less powerful than the storm with forces combined. Idaho is no exception. Our state faces the same confluence of powerful forces our country faces. Idaho is 14th in the nation in foreclosure. Several deaf and hard of hearing individuals might face housing hardships due to job layoffs. Until they receive employment, they will struggle to receive loans to purchase homes or keep up with mortgage payments. Due to an ailing economy, Governor Otter called for a state-wide 2.5% budget holdback for almost all state agencies, including CDHH, which would total up to \$68 million in cuts due to shortfall in tax revenues. Deaf and hard of hearing individuals might notice a difference in the services they receive from these agencies. These are several examples Idaho is currently facing.

Fret not! Don't allow this to despair you. Here is good news: if, however, we recognize the power of these forces as they interact over the years – and how they change course accordingly – then we have opportunity to reclaim the American dream in which each of us can make a difference and has a fair chance at sharing in any future prosperity. If history is of any indication, we will see doors of opportunities for change down the road, both short and long.

We can probably dispense with the "Perfect Storm" analogy. Even a slight change in any one front or force contributing to the perfect storm would lessen its overall impact. A meteorologist once pointed out that a potential different force coming in may work in opposite direction to prevent the 'Perfect Storm'. There are several events (forces) are coming (or already came) that would alter the course of Deaf and Hard of Hearing's 'Perfect Storm':

- New U.S. President/Federal Government
- ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) enacted effective January 1, 2009 (this Act overturns certain U.S. Supreme Court decision that narrows the ADA's coverage)
- Implement of Idaho Educational Interpreter Proficiency Assessment (EIPA) effective July 1 2009

social and training events

Resources Page

Launching pad to lots of information about various topics relating to deafness and hearing loss

About CDHH

Information about the Council, including board members, staff, statute, and bylaws

Contact Us

www.cdhh.idaho.gov

208-334-0879 vp/v

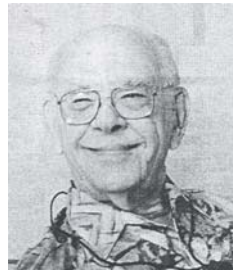
208-334-0803 tty

- Creation of transparent council: Deaf Education Advisory Council (DEAC)
- 17 new elected state legislators (both House and Senate)
- Deaf individual hired as an Executive Director of CDHH
- And more

The examples on the list above are several of the positive forces which could gradually bring positive changes in Idaho. With new legislations and existing rights in place, CDHH strongly encourages every individual who is deaf or hard of hearing – including you to become involved in public forums or any other avenues to raise awareness on a variety of issues. When no one speaks out, enforcement/state/local agencies do not know there are issues and could not act upon them. Talk with your local government leaders, area legislators. They are citizens also. Let it be us that alters the “Perfect Storm”

Steven Snow
Executive Director

Long Time Board Member, John Centa Dies



My Friend, John Centa

by Ron Schow, CDHH Board Member

John Centa was a very important force in Idaho and in the country for good with respect to helping those with hearing problems. He developed a friendship with Rocky Stone, the founder of Self Help for the Hard of Hearing (SHHH), which has headquarters in Washington DC. He was on the SHHH national council and, of course, he is really the reason we have a Council for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CDHH) in Idaho.

John had a successful career with Dupont and lived in the East. He retired early because of his hearing loss and moved to Northern Idaho, I think, to be close to his daughter, son-in-law, and grandkids who live there. John first wrote to Governor Andrus in about 1990 and urged him to form a task force about deaf and hard of hearing issues in Idaho.

Governor Andrus formed it and this Task Force wrote the legislation which led to the formation of CDHH. John and I were both on the task force and later on CDHH. He made many suggestions and led in many ways to help CDHH be a more effective organization. Penny Cooper, the first Executive Director of CDHH always counted on John and valued his role on the Council as I did. John was for many years the Co-Chair of CDHH and represented the hard of hearing in that leadership role while Bill Andrew was the Co-Chair for the Deaf. While he was Co-Chair and after as a council member, I could always count on John in our meetings to be a voice of reason and to express himself with honesty and humor.

It was a treat to see John when I attended our meetings. He was always

enthusiastic to see me and I was glad to see him. I nearly always took him to the airport after our meetings and he generally told me what was going on in his life, with his health, with his grandkids, with all of his family of whom he was very proud. He and his wife traveled a lot and enjoyed their later years. He also was attentive to me and wanted to be updated on developments in my life and with my family.

We often talked of visiting each other, though we lived on opposite ends of this large state. He came to Southeast Idaho once and spoke to my students and made a strong impression on them. I visited his home in Northern Idaho once, met some of his family (his daughter was away at the time), and I remember he took me to drive by his family lakeside cabin. I wish he and I could have visited more, especially in these last years when he seemed to yearn for the days when he could travel more easily and we were both on CDHH. I only regret that I was not more attentive and that the rush of life kept me from going to see him more times because he often offered to host me and it would have been enjoyable. We did have some good talks about a year ago about helping in the issues of the Gooding School. He was, as always, wanting to help and to be involved and I always valued his dedication and enthusiasm.

When it comes our time to go from this life, I suppose any of us will be pleased if we can feel that we have done something useful and made a contribution. John was someone who made a difference and who gave of himself in a very generous way. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing of this state had a friend and staunch advocate in John.

I miss him. I will always feel grateful to have known him and have been his friend.

News from Deaf Center of Idaho



Background

On Friday, April 6th, 2007 members of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing communities gathered in Meridian to discuss the establishment of an organization that will evolve into a robust direct-service portal for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing individuals. The first major objectives were to secure funding and facilities in which these services can be provided. The organization was named "Deaf Center of Idaho" or "DCI."

DCI is a non-profit organization and has held numerous events and fundraisers. The DCI board of directors is aggressively and diligently working to establish the foundation on which DCI will flourish for decades to come.

Administrative Update

501c3: We have renewed nonprofit status from the State of Idaho, and are finalizing federal 501c3 nonprofit paperwork. Obtaining 501c3 status

is critical for DCI to participate effectively in grant processes and grow our organization, as well as be exempt from federal income tax.

DCI website: Thanks for your patience as we have been updating DCI's website. The address is still www.deafcenteridaho.org. Soon it will be your place for DCI updates, information, education and news!

Board Composition:

Tara Adams, Chair
LaVona Andrew
Esther Brune
Scott Clegg
Steve Snow
Holly Thomas-Mowery
Cami Wilding

Thanks to past board member *Lynne Shields* for all you have done! DCI is currently seeking nominations for two board positions. If you are a driven, dynamic and involved person or know someone who is, nominate today!

Community Education

DCI continues to search for excellent training opportunities to offer the community. We are currently researching these interpreting workshop topics:

- Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) training for Deaf individuals
- Deaf/hearing interpreting teams training for hearing (and deaf) interpreters who are new to the concept of working with a CDI
- Oral interpreting training for interpreters who work with deaf or hard of hearing people who prefer oral transliteration
- Legal interpreter training

DCI is interested in what you think of these training topics and others!

Community

Corn Maze: The Corn Maze event on October 30th was incredible! Thank you to everyone who enjoyed an evening of community spookiness! DCI ticket sales showed 112 participants!

Deaf Night: DCI thanks Jeff Wood for establishing "Deaf Night" the 3rd Friday of each month. This event has been an incredible success; Jeff has asked DCI to sponsor Deaf Night as it continues to thrive. Deaf Night will continue, with Edwards Boise Spectrum being one of the main venues. Mark your calendar for an open-captioned movie or just to hang out!

Signing Santa: DCI is currently in the process of asking Signing Santa to join us at the mall this year. Please stay tuned to learn more about the date and location. And thank you to wonderful volunteers like Sonny Cabbage – you make a great "elf!"

Quest 4 Arts: DCI is working out the details to bring "Quest: Arts for Everyone" to Idaho for a big 2009 kids and community arts event, thanks to support from the Gallaudet University Regional Center at Ohlone College in Fremont, California. We are still developing plans and

partnerships across Idaho to make this happen. To learn more about Quest, visit www.quest4arts.org. Stay tuned!!

Are you interested in volunteering or serving as a DCI board member? Together we make it happen. Email dcj.taraadams@gmail.com for more information.



Do You Need Help Hearing on the Telephone?

If you are having difficulties understanding a telephone conversation, we can help. Please visit one of our demonstration and loan centers throughout the state and borrow an amplified telephone. Take it home, play with it; talk with your friends and family. Then you will be able to purchase the phone through one of our centers. And you will probably qualify for a grant to help you with the purchase price! If you need more information, please contact our office.



Vocational Rehabilitation and Deaf/HH Community

How can Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) benefit the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HoH)?

I am delighted for the opportunity to answer that question! IDVR has many wonderful services available in assisting those individuals who have a significant hearing loss AND who wish to be employed. This is very important to understand for those who wish to apply to IDVR for services: **IDVR's only goal is to help our clients to secure employment.** In order to do that, IDVR provides many services in order to help our clients to overcome obstacles that are caused by disability. Many with hearing loss are able to function with no difficulty at all. In fact, some feel that to be called "disabled" is insulting. That is surely understandable. For these individuals, IDVR is not appropriate. However, for those who have a disability and who have had difficulty getting employment, keeping employment, or training for employment (like college for example), IDVR is for YOU!

Some of the services that IDVR can provide include:

- Assistance in purchasing Hearing Aids, FM systems, Cross-overs,

- and other instruments designed to aid a person to hear
- Accessories for hearing aids such as dryers and batteries
 - Employment Services such as hiring an Employment specialist to assist in job readiness, employment searching, and adjusting to a new job once secured
 - Interpreter services for interviews, job training, and other types of meetings related to job search
 - Transportation assistance such as fuel assistance, liability auto insurance, car repair, buss passes, or acquisition of a bicycle
 - Training assistance such as financial assistance for Tuition, Text Books, Registration fees, and Tutors.
 - Clothing purchases for Interviewing, or required work attire.
 - Tools or equipment required for a specific type of employment.
 - Technology such as computers, phones, and tools for assisting those with hearing loss such as Super loud or Shake-awake alarm clocks, and amplified stethoscopes

And the list goes on and on. We are dedicated to providing what ever service is necessary to assist our clients in successfully achieving employment, hopefully in the kind of work that is desired by the individual.

It's important for readers to understand that not every client receives exactly the same services. Services to be provided are determined by the IDVR counselor who works with the client to determine which services are appropriate and necessary.

There is much more to tell about IDVR. I am happy to answer any and all questions about how IDVR can help the Deaf and HoH. Please feel free to contact me:

- Email dclapp@vr.idaho.gov
- Phone – 208-455-7048 (using relay or voice)
- US Postal Service – Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Doug Clapp, 3402 Franklin Rd, Caldwell, ID 83605-6932
- In person by scheduling an appointment with my Assistant Lorri – 208-455-7049 or Lorri's email – ldale@vr.idaho.gov - **And don't worry about coming to Caldwell, I'll meet you in your town here in the Treasure Valley**

Respectfully submitted by

Doug C. Clapp, RCD
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Council Seeks Nominations

Call for Nominations for Three More Board Members

The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing consists of nine members appointed by the Governor. They have terms of one to three years, and every year there are three members whose terms expire. Article II, Section 3 of the Council's by-law requires the Council to advertise nominations for new Council members.

The positions that are up for appointment for a two year term ending June 2010 are:

- **A member who is deaf**
- **A member who is an audiologist**

*The Council is still seeking **a physician** whose appointment would end June 2011.*

The position of Council member is one of leadership and includes the power to establish policy and govern. Such leadership implies the acceptance of a high commitment to work for the broad purposes and the objectives of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. A council member's wisdom, counsel, and support are vital to the success to the mission of the Council.

Responsibilities

1. Give special knowledge and skills individually and through committee efforts to pursue established goals.
2. Serve on committees, as needed, in the area of interest and expertise.
3. Attend regularly scheduled quarterly meetings or notify Executive Director or Chairperson of non-attendance.
4. Provide constructive guidance and advice to the Council, its officers, and the Executive Director on all matters affecting the best interest of the Council's programs, financial stability, and governing procedures.
5. Review and approve an annual budget.
6. Represent the Council to the member's constituency and the public.
7. Keep the Council informed about activities of the organization or constituency the member represents and make sure that the Council is aware of problems being encountered by the member's constituency or organization.
8. Serve as an advocate for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Advocate for improving communication access, for identifying of children with hearing loss and for an increase in services to assist people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
9. Serve as a resource in the community for issues faced by people in the community who are deaf or hard of hearing and for providing information

on accommodations and auxiliary services that can improve communication access.

The Council meets four times annually. The Council pays for travel, lodging and meal expenses.

Please contact the Council office for an application for nomination or [click here](#) to reach the website to download the application.

You also can submit the application to the Governor's office directly.

Please click the hyperlink:

http://gov.idaho.gov/boards/BoardApplication_EntryForm.cfm

Council Visits Health Fairs, Transition Workshop, and Assistive Living Facilities

Representatives from The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing have been busy over the last few months displaying and demonstrating assistive equipment that can be purchased through the subsidy program administered by United Cerebral Palsy. The Council has displayed and demonstrated at the Canyon County Health Fair, Boise Senior Center Health Fair, College of Southern Idaho's "Network for Success" workshop, The Cottages in Weiser, and The Cottages in Middleton. If you need information or a demonstration on the assistive equipment available, please call the office.

July 30-August 1 Deaf Education Summit Summary

By Aylee Schaefer, State Board of Education

The Idaho State Board of Education sponsored and facilitated a gathering of over 200 stakeholders, educators, lawmakers and affiliated persons of interest for two and a half days of intense review and strategic planning for the education of Deaf or hard of hearing or Blind/Visually Impaired children.

The objectives of the summit were:

- To renew and nurture relationships needed to work in harmony to serve the educational needs of students who are deaf or blind in Idaho.
 - To learn about Appreciative Inquiry, a positive approach to change, as a tool for working together.
 - To identify strengths and best practices of our current
-

system of delivering educational services to students who are deaf or blind.

- To learn about and celebrate the work and dedicated service of the many people and organizations who together provide outstanding educational services to deaf or blind students in Idaho.
- To craft a set of propositions and collaborative recommendations for action, in alignment with our state standards that articulate what we will do to ensure continuing high quality educational services to students who are deaf or blind.

The participants were divided into several working table groups to engage and participate in the process. There were many different exercises including activities of introduction, appreciative inquiry, sharing of knowledge and identifying specific outcomes on an historical timeline.

All activities included hands on participation and presentations to the various groups about specific issues relating to deaf or blind education.

Each table group was directed to discuss many issues including Dream Themes, New Opportunities, and crafting "Provocative Propositions" to be presented to the whole group in preparation of creating final outcomes.

The information and recommendation proposed by the summit will be emailed to all participants for corrections and revisions. At the State Board of Education meeting scheduled for August 21-22 in Pocatello, a short presentation will be made about the summit. At the next meeting, scheduled for October 9-10 in Lewiston, a final report will be submitted to the State Board of Education utilizing the recommendation created at the summit.

The recommendations created at the summit are as follows: (no particular order of importance)

- ❖ Family and mentor involvement
- ❖ Relocation of school/need for residential school
- ❖ Continuum of services to be provided
- ❖ Separate Blind/Visual Impaired programs from Deaf/Hard of Hearing programs
- ❖ Collaboration with other state agencies
- ❖ Personnel preparation (Recruitment, training and retention of employees)
- ❖ Administration of Services

Council Holds Town Hall Meeting in Coeur d'Alene

The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing held a "Town Hall" meeting

on September 20, 2008 at the Coeur D'Alene Public Library. The meeting was attended by about 40 people who voiced concerns over issues affecting deaf and hard of hearing people.

Executive Director, Steven Snow, presented information about the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and his role in the Deaf community. Many people spoke at the meeting and voiced concerns about issues including: quality of life, interpreter availability, accessibility needs, video phones, employment, alerting devices, hearing aid assistance, among others.

This is the second "Town Hall" meeting sponsored by the Council with more to follow including one scheduled for Friday, December 5 in Boise at the Council offices and one yet to be scheduled in Eastern Idaho.

The Council will compile the information obtained in these meetings and present the results to the Legislature in order to get more funding for programs for people with hearing loss.

If you have any questions about these "Town Hall" meetings please contact the Council.

Town Hall Meeting Scheduled In Boise

You are invited to a Town Hall Meeting sponsored by

THE COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, December 5, 2008

**PLACE: Suite D #119
1720 Westgate Dr.
Boise, Idaho**

TIME: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Please come and discuss with us about what you want the future of the deaf/hard of hearing community in Idaho to look like. We are interested in your thoughts, ideas and recommendations. This open forum will give you an opportunity to talk about issues that affect you such as:

- ✓ Work/job placement
- ✓ Interpreter availability
- ✓ Other issues that you want to discuss

This is an opportunity for you to let us know what we can do for you.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Deaf/hard of hearing individuals, parents, towns people, professionals, legislators, teachers, anyone with an interest in this issue.

FACILITATOR: Steven Snow, Executive Director of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Questions: Call (208) 334-0879 (VP or voice)
(208) 334-0802 TTY

Interpreters will be provided
Refreshment provided by Sorenson Communications

September 5, 2008 Council Meeting Summary

The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing held its first quarterly meeting for Fiscal Year 2009 on September 5, 2008. Executive Director, Steven Snow presented the following information:

- Founding member of the Council, John Centa passed away, Steven talked about the involvement John had with the deaf and hard of hearing community.
- Steven talked about Zero Based Budget from the Governor's office.
- Steven said the general operating budget for the Council is on track.
- Steven said \$10,000 has been set aside for interpreter services.
- Town Hall meeting updates.
- Steven said the Council is working with the Department of Labor to gather statistics on the deaf and hard of hearing populations looking for employment.
- Steven said Video Remote Interpreting links are now on our website along with the Interpreter Directory.
- KTVB has had difficulty with captioning when the station converted from analog to digital television.
- Steven said he will be working with Law Enforcement agencies regarding the policies about arresting deaf persons.
- Steven said the Council has been working with PepNet.
- Bylaws will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Steven presented 2010 Legislative session ideas for discussion.

To view the official minutes of the meeting, please click [here](#).

Quarterly Meeting Dates Scheduled

Friday, December 5, 2008
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
1720 Westgate Drive
Suite A
Room 192
Boise, Idaho

Friday, March 6, 2009
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
1720 Westgate Drive
Suite D
Room 119
Boise, Idaho

Friday, May 1, 2009
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
1720 Westgate Drive
Suite D
Room 119
Boise, Idaho

Upcoming Events

To see a list of upcoming events, please click [here](#).

Changes in Lobby Area

We would love you to come and visit us at the Council. Before you come, please be aware that there have been BIG changes in the lobby area of our building. If you want to visit us, please come by. You do not need to wait in line to speak with the receptionist. If you use a voice telephone, just go to the phones on the wall and dial 0879 and we will come and get you. If you use a TTY, go into the reception area and use the TTY and dial 0803 and we will come and get you.

We are here to help you with your questions and concerns and do not want to miss you just because of the changes in the building.

[Do you want to add your email address on our mailing list to subscribe](#)

CDHH quarterly e-Newsletter or other announcements?

Send email to: Steven Snow, Executive Director
Snows2@dhw.idaho.gov
